

VZCZCXRO0773

OO RUEHAG RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR
DE RUEHTH #1565 2961130
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O R 231130Z OCT 09
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0881
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 001565

SIPDIS

DEPT PASS TO EUR/ERA:ELIZABETH KONICK
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO USOFFICE ALMATY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/10/23

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [EUN](#) [GR](#) [CE](#) [GV](#)

SUBJECT: Greek Views on October 2009 GAERC

REF: ELIZABETH KONICK EMAIL 10/17/2009

CLASSIFIED BY: Alan Purcell, Acting Political Counselor; REASON:
1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (C) On October 23, Poloff discussed ref points on U.S. positions on the October 26-27 GAERC with Niki Kamba, European Correspondent in the MFA All Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) Division. Kamba said the EU paper on Afghanistan/Pakistan had already been approved by all member states at the working level, and would be functional and more technical in nature rather than broadly strategic. Kamba noted that the GAERC would not focus on visa liberalization in the Western Balkans but would spend time discussing a political resolution in Bosnia. On Middle East peace talks, Kamba said Greece saw the U.S. as taking the lead but suggested the EU and other actors take a greater role if current talks fail.

¶2. (C) AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN/IRAN: Kamba said the Afghanistan paper was very technical, focused on specific initiatives, and had already been pre-approved by EU member states. She noted that the paper would have a regional component, with a section on Pakistan, but that this section would include general points on the rule of law, good governance, and democracy--and no hard numbers or detailed objectives. On EUPOL in Afghanistan, Kamba said EU states were "very engaged" and were actively working on incentives so police officers would accept tours in Afghanistan. On assistance, Kamba stated that the EU had no plans to route assistance through the Afghani government at this point, but shared the U.S. goal of transitioning development assistance to an Afghan-led process--first by building up government institutional capacity, and then by working more closely through the government. On Iran, Kamba said the Greek position hadn't changed--preferring that sanctions, if necessary, be determined in a UN process, but willing to go along with any EU final consensus in the end.

¶3. (C) WESTERN BALKANS: Kamba pointedly noted that discussions on the Republic of Macedonia would not be on the GAERC agenda. She also said principals would not spend time discussing visa liberalization, and would instead focus on the political process in Bosnia. Greece fully supports U.S.-EU cooperation on Bosnia, Kamba said, but wants to see the OHR wound down, with a transition to a Bosnian-led, "truly autonomous" government. Kamba stated that, with OHR, it would be "hard" for Greece and for the EU to move forward on Euro-Atlantic integration for Bosnia. Kamba also raised the importance to Greece of constitutional reform in Bosnia, saying that without a more effective governing structure, Bosnia would be

"left behind."

¶4. (C) MIDDLE EAST PEACE: Kamba expressed Greece's full support for U.S.-led efforts to restart negotiations, but suggested that the EU could play a bigger role--especially if U.S.-led efforts failed to show progress. Kamba noted that the Swedish EU Presidency had circulated a non-paper on what the EU might do once peace negotiations had concluded, and was already preparing "rather optimistically" for the next stage in Middle East relations. Kamba said the EU should still have a role helping put pressure on Middle East actors during the current stage, and suggested that the EU--and Greece--could help press moderate Arab states. Responding to a question on Greece's previous offers to act as a Middle East "broker," Kamba replied that while in theory Greece had good relations with Arab states and could act as an intermediary, in practice the Greek government had no established mechanisms or clear ideas on how this might work.

¶5. (C) SRI LANKA / GUINEA: Kamba said the EU continued to be concerned about the detention of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka and the GAERC would issue humanitarian conclusions on the situation there. Kamba also added that EU member states had agreed in principle on sanctions in Guinea, including an arms embargo and a visa ban and financial sanctions on specific coup leaders. The details, Kamba said, would be discussed at the GAERC.
Speckhard